

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6886

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PINS, CD, NI

SUBJ: OBASANJO, MALLOUM REACH ACCORD ON BORDER PROBLEMS

REF : (A) LAGOS 6112, (B) N'DJAMENA 1406, (C) N'DJAMENA 2017

(D) NDJAMENA 1511

1. HIGH-POWERED FMG DELEGATION LED BY HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO MET YESTERDAY WITH ENTOURAGE HEADED BY CHADIAN PRESIDENT FELIX MALLOUM IN BORNO STATE CAPITAL MAIDUGURI TO ENDORSE BORDER "PEACE FORMULA" WHICH SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS HAD WORKED OUT IN SERIES OF MEETINGS OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER OBASANJO-MALLOUM MEETING EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RECURRENCE OF BORDER INCIDENTS AND ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO AGENCIES TO AVERT FURTHER DIFFICULTIES: A LAKE CHAD JOINT COMMITTEE AND A JOINT CONTROL POST. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED FOR CLOSER GENERAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND REAFFIRMED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE LAKE CHAD COMMISSION AS A VEHICLE FOR BILATERAL DIALOGUE. INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO

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OBASANJO TO VISIT CHAD AT DATE TO BE AGREED UPON LATER.

2. ON BROADER ISSUES, NIGERIAN AND CHADIAN LEADERS REITERATED USUAL FORMULAE: THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR OAU AND THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS IN ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND "AZANIA", STRONG CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID, IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM, AND PLEDGE TO ERADICATE FOREIGN DOMINATION FROM AFRICA WERE ALSO INCLUDED IN COMMUNIQUE.

3. COMMENT. PRESS REPORTS YESTERDAY AND TODAY TALK ABOUT "PERSISTENT" CLASHES BETWEEN CHADIANS AND NIGERIANS AT DUBI AND DORO TOWNS OVER FISHING RIGHTS AND TAX COLLECTION. HOWEVER, FMG HAD MADE NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE SKIRMISHES, DESPITE INFLAMMATORY PRESS COVERAGE OF MID-MAY FRACAS (REFTEL A). DECISIVENESS AND MODERATION WITH WHICH FMG HAS ACTED TO RESOLVE THIS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THAT FMG WISHES TO KEEP RELATIONS WITH ITS WEAKER NEIGHBORS ON FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE BASIS -- EVEN IF THAT MEANS DEMONSTRATING FORBEARANCE IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATIONS FROM COUNTRIES LIKE EQUATORIAL GUINEA (MISTREATMENT OF NIGERIAN LABORERS) AND BENIN (ABEL ZINSOU KIDNAP ATTEMPT).

4. WE NOTE REF. C ALLEGATION BY MALLOUM THAT FROLINAT PERPETRATORS OF APRIL 13 GRENADE ATTACK RENDEZVOUSED IN NIGERIA AND WONDER WHETHER CHADIANS PRESENTLY CONSIDER THAT AS SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL ISSUE.
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